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Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 08969 241612Z

62
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-11 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-03 L-03 AID-20 DRC-01 /096 W
---------- 129297
R 241443Z SEP 74
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6146
INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA
AMCONSUL IBADAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, NI
SUBJECT: TRADE UNION UNITY PACT UNOFFICIALLY SIGNED

SUMMARY: TRADE UNION UNITY IS AGAIN IN THE WIND AS SOME ULC AND NTUF OFFICIALS SIGN DECLARATION URGING ESTABLISHMENT OF UNITED LABOR MOVEMENT. ATTEMPT MAY BE RATHER SHORT-LIVED, HOWEVER, AS ONE ULC LEADER ATTEMPTS IN PRIVATE TO REPUDIATE AGREEMENT. DECLARATION DOES NOT CONFORM WITH REGULATIONS SET FORTH INTRADE UNION DECREE AND CAN BEST BE VIEWED AS DECLARATION OF INTENT ONLY. END SUMMARY

1. NUMBER OF LEADING TRADE UNION OFFICIALS REPRESENTING BOTH UNITED LABOUR CONGRESS AND NIGERIAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION ON SEPTEMBER 21 SIGNED DECLARATION RESOLVING THEIR INTENT TO FORM SINGLE NATIONAL TRADE UNION CENTER. DECLARATION, CALLED THE APENA DECLARATION, GREW OUT OF INFORMAL MEETING OF THESE UINON LEADERS FOLLOWING BURIAL CEREMONY OF FORMER ULC TREASURER J. A. ODULEYE. ACCORDING TO ONE ULC OFFICIAL WHO SIGNED DECLARATION, P. C. OKOLO, NEED FOR LABOR UNITY DURING PRESENT ECONOMIC CRISIS, I.E., CONTINUATION OF WAGE FREEZE DURING PERIOD OF INFLATION, AND ANTICIPATED NEED
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PAGE 02 LAGOS 08969 241612Z

FOR UNITED ACTION AGAINST UDOJI COMMISSION REPORT,WERE

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

PRIMARY FACTORS IN DRAWING UP DECLARATION. DECISION ALSO TAKEN TO SET UP EIGHT-MAN WORKING COMMITTEE TO DRAW UP PROGRAM FOR IMMEDIATE ATTAINMENT OF UNITY. THIS COMMITTEE TO ACT AS SPOKESMEN FOR WORKERS UNTIL CENTRAL LABOR BODY IS FORMED. TWO-MAN TEAM COMPOSED OF A. M. O. ANIGBO OF ULC AND O. Z. EJIOFOR OF NTUF ARE MAKING PREPARATIONS FOR FIRST COMMITTEE MEETING NEXT WEEK. DECLARATION CALLS FOR INAUGURAL CONFERENCE OF NEW CENTER WITHIN THREE MONTHS OF DECLARATION SIGNING.

2. SIGNING FOR NTUF WERE ABAYOMI ISHOLA (PRESIDENT), WAHAB GOODLUCK, J. O. JAMES (DEPUTY PRESIDENT), B. N. OBUA, O. Z. EJIOFOR, ADE SALAWA, A. MACAULAY AND F. O. BALOGUN. ULC SIGNATORS WERE J. O. ADEGBESAN (DEPUTY PRESIDENT), V. M. I. JACK (VICE PRESIDENT), N. F. PEPPLE (TREASURER), A. M. O. ANIGBO, O. N. ESHIETT, E. C. OKEI-ACHAMBA, P. C. OKOLO, AND A. A. OKWESE. NIGERIA'S VETERAN LABOR LEADER . A. O. IMOUDU ALSO SIGNED.

3. EUPHORIA WHICH FOLLOWED SIGNING OF DECLARATION APPEARS TO BE WEARING OFF RATHER RAPIDLY. ULC'S DEPUTY PRESIDENT ADEGBESAN IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION CLAIMS PORTION OF DECLARATION WHICH PROVIDES FOR DISSOLUTION OF PRESENT CENTRAL LABOR BODIES DOES NOT APPLY TO ULC. WHILE ULC AGREES ON NEED FOR SINGLE LABOR ORGANIZATION TO PROTECT WORKERS' INTERESTS WHEN PUBLIC SERVICE REVIEW COMMISFSON REPORT IS MADE PUBLIC, ULC CANNOR ACCEPT " IDEOLOGICAL" BENT OF NTUF. HE AND OTHER ULC LEADERS VIEW DECLARATION SOLELY AS A CALL FOR AN INTERIN BODY AND NOT AS A FULLTIME ORGANIZATION WHICH MIGHT BE TURNED INTO A POLITICAL ORGAN BY NTUF LEADERS. ANOTHER ULC OFFICIAL CLAIMS ULC PEOPLE PRESENT AT THIS MEETING SIGNED ONLY TO AVOID GIVING IMPRESSION ULC DOES NOT WANT LABOR UNITY IN NIGERIA.

4. NTUF OFFICIALS ON OTHER HAND ARE OPTIMISTIC OVER " APENA DECLARATION" AND INDICATE NTUF WILL WORK CLOSELY WITH ANY OTHER CENTRAL LABOR BODY TO FORM PROPOSED UNITED ORGANIZATION.

5. COMMENT: JOINT ACTION GROUPS AMONG NATION'S CENTRAL LABOR BODIES HAVE OCCURRED OFTEN IN PAST, PARTICULARLY WHEN UNIONS FACE UP TO NEED FOR A CONCERTED AFFORT ON ECONOMIC QUESTIONS. WAGE REVIEW COMMISSIONS IN PAST HAVE USUALLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

BROUGHT FORTH SUCH GROUPINGS, ONLY TO SEE THEM BREAK APART OVER POLITICAL USSIES. ULC OFFICIALS APPEAR TO BE SETTING STAGE FOR SPLIT EVEN BOFORE THIS PROPOSAL GETS OFF THE GROUND, WHICH IS NOT SURPRISING IN VIEW OF FACT THAT THEY AND NTUF OFFICIALS HAD NO AUTHORIZATION TO SIGN SUCH A DOCUMENT. WE CAN IMAGINE ULC GENERAL SECRETARY ODEYEMI AND PRESIDENT KALTUNGO WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT DECLARATION AS BINDING ON ULC. DECLARATION CAN BEST BE TAKEN AS SHORT-LIVED

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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SIGN OF INTENT BY SOME NIGERIAN UNION LEADERS TO WORK TOGETHER ON BASICALLY ECONOMIC MATTERS BUT NOT AS DEFINITIVE OR FINAL ANSWER TO NATION'S APPARENTLY INSOLUABLE PROBLEM OF A DIVIDED LABOR MOVEMENT. FACT THAT ULC LEADERS DID SIGN DOCUMENT, HOWEVER, WILL LEAVE ULC OPEN TO CHARGES OF DESTROYING TRADE UNION UNITY IF IN FACT ULC DOES PUBLICLY REPUDIATE DECLARATION. EASY OUT FOR ULC WOULD BE TO SITE PROVISIONS IN TRADE UNION DECREE WHICH REGULATES WAYS AND MEANS BY WHICH CENTRAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS CAN AMALGAMATE. DECLARATION CLEARLY DOES NOT TAKE THESE REGULATIONS INTO ACCOUNT AND IT IS UNLIKELY THAT DECLARATION WILL HAVE MORE THAN PASSING INFLUENCE ON LABOR SCENE.
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Draft Date: 24 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Review Comment: n/a
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRADE UNION UNITY PACT UNOFFICIALLY SIGNED SUMMARY: TRADE UNION UNITY IS AGAIN IN THE WIND AS
TAGS: ELAB, NI
To: STATE
Type: TE
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